

PRESS RELEASE

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RALEIGH COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION INSURANCE FRAUD

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that Joeie Butler Jr. pleaded guilty earlier this month to one (1) misdemeanor count of wrongfully seeking workers' compensation insurance.

Mr. Butler admitted to calling his workers' compensation claims manager at the former Workers' Compensation Commission on three separate occasions claiming he had not received his temporary disability check, and requesting replacement checks. An investigation concluded that Mr. Butler had in fact received the original checks, cashed them, and received nearly \$2000 in overpayments.

"Workers' compensation insurance provides medical, disability and rehabilitation benefits to workers who suffer injury or disease in the course of and resulting from their covered employment," Cline said. "Persons who fraudulently secure benefits, file false reports or give false testimony are subject to criminal prosecution."

Mr. Butler was sentenced August 3, 2006 to one (1) year in the Southern Regional Jail, which was suspended after being given credit for time served. Mr. Butler was placed on probation for eighteen (18) months, ordered to pay full restitution in the

amount of \$1915.08, and reimburse the State of West Virginia \$500 for his court appointed counsel.

Anyone with information relating to a suspected case insurance fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 800-779-6853.